

The ServiCenter News

October 1, 2003 – Volume 1, Issue 1

From the Director



Welcome to the first issue of the NNSA Service Center newsletter. I think what you'll notice right away is that the focus of this newsletter is people. We'll have articles about workplace issues as

well, but our goal is for this to be all about you.

I want this publication to be like a small town newspaper that lets you know the good things that are happening in your neighborhood and the good people who are making things happen.

I remain excited about our mission of service to the Site Offices and NNSA Headquarters. As President Harry Truman said in a letter to AT&T when he asked the company to manage Sandia Labs, "we have an opportunity to provide exceptional service in the national interest."

My thanks to Bernie Pleau in Albuquerque for editing the newsletter. Bernie will be your point of contact for submissions to *The ServiCenter News*.

You can submit articles to bpleau@doeal.gov or fax information to Bernie at 505-845-6206. Bernie's phone number is 505-845-5951.

Please let Bernie know about events, celebrations, successes and awards that you want to share with the Service Center community. He'll also appreciate good photos of our people at work, particularly digital photos. ♦

Brooks SC All-Hands – The Latest From the Top



NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks met with Service Center folks in Albuquerque September 8th to talk about the reorganization and to reflect upon his feelings about working at the NNSA.

"I have been stunned by how much I like this job," Brooks said. "Why, because what we are doing is so terribly important for the country at a time when it is really possible to do it all.

"I am blown away by the quality and dedication of all of you," he stated. "I

am proud of you and the Secretary is proud of you, and a whole bunch of people in the country who have no idea who you are or what you do are proud of you...but they will"

Brooks said generally the reorganization is going well. He said we are coming to grips with the future of the nuclear weapons program and we are preparing a program for the complex that will be suited for the 21st Century. "I know I am imposing burdens on people who have done a good job for our country," Brooks said. "In January I made the decision I thought was right and I still think it is right. We are moving into a difficult phase of the reorganization. "We can expect to lose some very good people but we will also keep some good people."

He wanted people to know that he is also affected by the reorganization.



"Am I building an empire while I am pushing you out the door – no," he said. His office is taking cuts – about 30%. As for the EM folks, nothing has been decided. He is working with the Headquarters EM office on several options and trying to decide which one makes the most sense.

Brooks attended a graduation ceremony for the 2003 intern class and swore in new Service Center Chief Counsel Elizabeth Osheim while in Albuquerque. ♦

"Honoring Our Past, Surpassing Our Present And Leading Our Future"

The Service Center Albuquerque, Hispanic Employment Program held its annual program September 15. Fifty employees and guests attended the event.



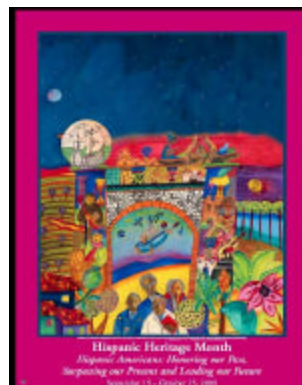
Margaret Montoya a University of New Mexico School of Law professor and native of Las Vegas, NM gave the keynote address "Why Should Affirmative Action Matter in New Mexico after the Grutter Case?"

Montoya espoused the positive intent of

affirmative action, hard work, and the evils of segregation on the Hispanic population.

"New Mexico is a true minority majority state with a 42% Hispanic and 9.5% American Indian, population not including other minority groups." said Montoya, "The Grutter case will allow graduate schools to include minority students as a part of academic freedom with recruitment aspects being explored by virtually all U.S. colleges."

Montoya is a graduate of San Diego State University and Harvard Law School, and a member of the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the States of New York and New Mexico. ♦



Hispanic Heritage Month 2003 Poster

Hispanic Heritage Month began September 15th, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Today, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 37 million people in the United States are of Hispanic origin.



"The Hispanic-American community has a long and important history of commitment to our Nation's core values, and the contributions of this community have helped make our country great. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the many achievements of Hispanic Americans and recognize their contributions to our country."

◆ Notable Hispanic Americans ◆



In 1990, California-born Ellen Ochoa was selected by NASA and became the first Hispanic female astronaut. Since 1991 she has been on two space flights, logging more than 480 hours in space. As a doctoral student at Stanford, and later as a

researcher at Sandia National Laboratories and NASA Ames Research Center, Dr. Ochoa investigated optical systems for performing information processing. She is a co-inventor on three patents for an optical inspection system, an optical object recognition method, and a method for noise removal in images.

Ellen's dream is to help build a Space Station, which she says is "critical... to human exploration in space, a transportation mode to new frontiers." ♦



In 1995, Mario Molina received a Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work in atmospheric chemistry and the effect of chlorofluorocarbons on the depletion of the ozone layer. This was the first time a Nobel Prize for research into the impact of man-made objects on the

environment was awarded. The discoveries led to an international environmental treaty banning production of industrial chemicals that reduce the ozone layer.

Molina is one of the world's most knowledgeable experts on pollution and the effects of chemical pollution on the environment. Mexican-born scientist Dr. Molina is currently the Lee and Geraldine Martin Professor of Environmental Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It's very rewarding to see how one can simultaneously try to work with problems that affect society in a very direct way," he says. ♦

Partnering For Education Volunteers Get an A+



Nevada Site Office Volunteers (L-R) Donna Williams, Patrice Ross, Sheril Hamlin, and Marcella Annear with several Quannah McCall students

For most students the first day of school is exciting and fun – making new friends, sporting the latest schoolyard fashion and carrying a backpack full of supplies. However, for some students in Nevada and Albuquerque the pens, pencils, notebooks, paper, backpacks and other school supplies would have been missing except for the efforts of some Service Center employees during this year's Back-to-School Drives.

"The Back-to-School Drive is the first

activity to kick-off the new school year," said Elizabeth Donnelly, NNSA Nevada Site Office's FOCUS School Project coordinator. "This year's drive was successful due to the generosity of the Nevada Site Office family, who freely gave their time and money."

The FOCUS School Project helps students understand how the basic skills they learn in school apply to business and their community. It also gives the business community an opportunity to work with schools and the education system. This marks the eighth year Nevada employees have



participated in the FOCUS School Project.

The school supplies were handed out in August to students at Quannah McCall Elementary, Kit Carson Elementary, and Jim Bridger Junior High schools.

In Albuquerque the Corporate Volunteer Council, comprised of various Albuquerque businesses and government agencies, held a school supply drive for children whose parents needed a little help.

"The supply drive was a tremendous success," said Teresa Branom, NNSA Service Center in Albuquerque. "The Service Center employees collected over 1100 items and the Council distributed more than 50,000 items to children."

In both Albuquerque and Nevada, schools are matched with businesses, organizations, agencies, and individuals that bring resources directly to the classrooms. ♦

Join A School Book Sale Gets High Marks



Program our Join A School Partners' in Education Program.

Partners' in Education Program mission is to develop partnerships that create opportunities for involvement and

understanding between schools and community, enhance excellence in learning and provide students the skills to succeed in a changing society.

Partnership activities include tutoring and reading with students, curriculum enhancement, providing event judges, technology support, donating school supplies, and participating in career activities.

A big thanks to the Join-A-School Committee who organized this event! ♦

The Service Center Albuquerque Office thanks all who donated books, cds, games, puzzles, and other items. and supported this annual event. You have made a difference in your community! Funds raised will benefit the Jackson Middle School Tutoring



The unsold items were donated to the Albuquerque Indian Center



L-R: Books Are Fun Manager Tom Holmes, Bill O'Neal, students Kaitlyn Simmons and Corey Gibson, principal Matt Duffy, Judy Weisse and Oakland employee Dan Ruiz

Retired NNSA Contract Officer Bill O'Neal Honored

The NNSA Service Center Oakland honored the retirement of Bill O'Neal, Department Chairman of Mathematics at Elmhurst Middle School in Oakland, CA, September 12.

O'Neal retired from DOE in 1997. While working at DOE, he developed outreach programs at McClymonds High School and became familiar with the needs of Oakland K-

12 schools. He taught sixth grade math, science and reading from April 1998 to July 2003 at Elmhurst and will continue as a substitute teacher. He has also taught part-time at Laney College in Oakland and Chabot in Hayward.

O'Neal, a dedicated teacher, was honored by the donation of new science, math and current

events books to the Elmhurst School library. The donated books came from a General Service Administration Book Fair held at the Oakland Federal Building in June. Judy Weisse, Manager of the NNSA Energy Information Center, and Brian Cambra of Books Are Fun presented the more than 500 new books to Elmhurst Middle School. ♦



From L-R: Jessica Aguirre, ABC-TV, Ch. 7 news anchor, Belky Escobar, Luis Echegoyen, (a well known Spanish news caster) Univision Ch. 14, and Rigo Chacon, General Assignment Reporter ABC-TV, Ch. 7

Oakland Work to Study Program Produces a Star

Belky Escobar, who works in the NNSA Service Center Oakland Public Affairs Office, won the "Rigo Chacon Pioneer Award" including a \$2,000 scholarship.

The "La Raza Media Educational Fund" awarded a total of seven scholarships. Two "Pioneer Awards" of \$2,000 and five other

awards for \$1,000 were presented.

Felix Elizalde, the Fund's President, said the scholarship board members thought Escobar has the potential to succeed in the broadcasting business.

Escobar is in the Work to Student Program and has been working in the

Oakland Public Affairs Office for two years.

Escobar was presented the award and scholarship during a ceremony held at the KGO studios in San Francisco September 4th.

Many well-known Latino journalists attended. ♦



OST Team members (L-R) Sean Connors, Rupert Romero and Marcus Abeyta stand by as Administrator Brooks reads the Secretarial Award

OST - A Job Well Done

The Office of Secure Transportation received and award from Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham for the Rocky Flats Plant Waste Shipping Campaign.

NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks presented the Award to OST on his visit to Albuquerque September 4 during an OST All Hands Meeting.

In a letter to OST



Brooks Speaks at OST All Hands Meeting

Secretary Abraham wrote, "It is fitting that the Department chose the OST team to help

accomplish a most important shipping campaign. Your innovative logistics and operations have resulted in the completion of the Rocky Flats shipping campaign two month ahead of schedule, not only saving the Department both time and money, but also enhancing its reputation for excellence." ♦

Special Emphasis Program

The 17th Annual Special Emphasis Program Managers/Older Workers Joint Luncheon was held at the Coronado Club in Albuquerque, NM, September 3rd. Sixty employees and guests attended this year's program, which had the theme: *Strengthening Diversity Through Unity*.



Service Center Director Jim Hirahara, in his welcoming remarks,

stated, "I can always count on the Special Emphasis Managers to be very forthright and honest in their comments to me."



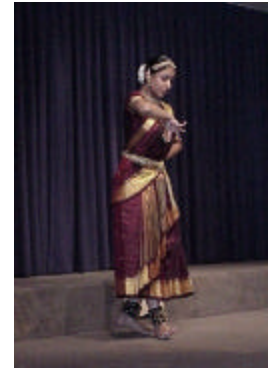
Colonel Linda F. Jones, Commander of the 377th Mission Support Group Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, gave the keynote address.

"I am an Asian-American who grew up in two different cultures," said

Jones, "I am a firm believer in incorporating diversity into building a quality workforce."

Yolanda Ruiz, Service Center Diversity Manager, noted that the Service Center has a very diverse population.

The National Nuclear Security Administration, Service Center (Albuquerque) Special Emphasis Program Managers, their respective councils and Older Workers Advocate have worked diligently during the past year to support Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity, and Affirmative Action. ♦



Lonika Majithia, Biology major at the University of New Mexico, performed an ancient classical dance from India called the Bharatanatyam



Jim Hirahara presents David Joe 2003 American Indian Program Manager, with a certificate

NNSA Graduates More Technical Interns



The National Nuclear Security Administration graduated its' 2nd and 3rd Technical Leadership Development Program (TLDP) and Technical Intern Program (TIP) classes September 4th. The two-year TIP program has replaced the TLDP, a three-year program begun in 2000. The programs recruit and develop highly qualified

technical personnel for future NNSA leadership roles.

The programs provide experiences that build and strengthen the technical knowledge base of participants, and demonstrate the application of theory to real world problems.

The programs involve a

combination of work situations at more than one NNSA location and contractor organization.

There are 14 graduates in both groups.

TLDP Graduates include: M. Christina Roybal, Sandia Site Office; Nathan Gorn & Jessy Innocent, Kansas City Site Office; Patrick S. Moss & Adrienne L. Nash, Los Alamos Site Office; Shawn Graham & Stephen Loo, Livermore Site Office

TIP Graduates include: Gregg Franklin Nelson & Derek L. Wright, Savannah River Site Office; John A. Gallegos & Eric L. Trujillo, Los Alamos Site Office; Frank J. Peralta & A. Dominic Vigil, Sandia Site Office; Montrell D. Harris, Pantex Site Office. ♦



"Everyone becomes a better leader by practice and study," Linton Brooks told the interns and attendees.

"Shaping your leadership style begins now. The three important things to remember as a leader are to be a person of responsibility and integrity, know your stuff, and take care of your people."



National Nuclear Security
Administration
Service Center
Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87185

PHONE:

(505) 845-6202

FAX:

(505) 845-5438

E-MAIL:

bpleau@doeal.gov

We're on the Web:

[http://www.doeal.gov/opa/SCN.h
tm](http://www.doeal.gov/opa/SCN.htm)

Tracy Loughhead
Manager, Public Affairs

Bernard R. Pleau Jr.
Editor

Contributors:

Sheril Hamlin, NV
Elizabeth Donnelly, NV
Ki Tecumseh, AL
Teresa Branom, AL
Judy Weisse, Oak

"66 Years on Route 66"

The Federal Executive Board of New Mexico Public Affairs Council sponsored a float in this years State Fair Parade, "Expo New Mexico." All Federal agencies in NM were invited to participate in decorating the float and in the parade. The parade theme was, "66 Years on Route 66." Our float theme was "66 Years of Federal Community Service along Route 66."



The float began as a 25-foot trailer donated by the Bureau of Land Management. It was decorated with red, white, and blue paper flowers,

and a yellow flag with red zia symbol, also made of paper flowers. A Harley-Davidson motorcycle (complete with rider) and a cowboy were atop the float. The float was pulled by an SUV decorated with Route 66 signs bearing the names of all the Federal Agencies and walkers carrying signs of various Federal Agencies. Several agencies participated and everyone had a great time. ♦

Umshler Captures the Bronze



NNSA Service Center's Dennis Umshler, masters' discus thrower, age 50-54 age group, finished the 2003 season with a bronze medal at the National Masters Track & Field Championships in

Eugene, Oregon, August 9th. Umshler pulled out a 3rd place after digging himself into a hole on his first four throws. After a short first throw, he watched in frustration as his next three throws sailed out of bounds. He regained his resolve for the last two throws to lay one down the middle of the sector 151 feet and captured 3rd place.

Earlier this year Umshler captured a bronze medal at the World Masters T&F

Championships held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He won the World Masters T&F Championships in 1993 in Miyazaki, Japan.

This is Umshler's second year of throwing after a six-year lay off. He has won 11 National Master's Championships in 14 years of competition.

Umshler says he appreciates all the support he has received this season from his wife and friends. ♦

Osheim is Service Center Chief Counsel



NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks swore in Elizabeth Osheim as the new Service Center Chief Counsel September 4th at

a ceremony during the Albuquerque All Hands Meeting.



Osheim comes to the Service Center from the Los Alamos Site Office where she served as legal counsel. ♦

**Got a great story
you think others
would enjoy seeing
in the ServiCenter
News? Let us
know!**

Call

505-845-5951

Or Email

bpleau@doeal.gov